

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group/Species I., claims 1-9 and 12-20, allegedly drawn to a thermoacoustic device and method of operation, classified in class 62, subclass 6;

Group/Species II., claims 10 and 11, allegedly drawn to a tapered tube, classified in class 138, subclass 37.

For purposes of responsiveness, **Applicant elects, without traverse, Group/Species I., claims 1-9 and 12-20.**

Thus, examination of the elected claims in the present application are earnestly solicited, and Applicants reserve the right to file continuation and/or divisional application(s) on the non-elected claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below.

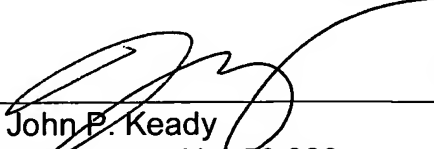
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the

Serial No. 10/717,604
Reply to Office Action dated 10 January 2005

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filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-3136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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8 FEB 2005

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